



City of Freeport
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall
July 27, 2017 Minutes

I. Meeting Opened

The July 27, 2017 Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council Members present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilman William “Boots” McCormick, and Councilman Eddie Farris

Staff present: City Clerk Rebecca Podraza, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Lead Sewer Operator Bridget Hilgenberg, and City Engineer William Menadier.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Cuchens, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. Recognition of Guests

Mayor Barley introduced the Honorable Judge David Green. Judge Green approached the podium to perform the Swearing in Ceremony of the newly Elected Officials.

IV. Swearing in of the following Elected Officials was performed:

1. Mayor Elect Russ Barley
2. Councilwoman Elect Elizabeth Brannon
3. Councilwoman Elect Amanda Green
4. Councilman Elect William “Boots” McCormick

V. Public Comment on Consent Agenda: None

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Pay all Bills in Order
2. Revenue & Expenditure Report – June 2017 (FYI Only)
3. July 10, 2017 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
4. July 11, 2017 Canvassing Board - City Election Minutes

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman McCormick seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris,

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In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk’s office at 850-835-2822 by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).



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Green, McCormick); motion carried.

VII. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Additions:

- Finance Officer – Add Truck for Parks Department under Item 3
- Councilwoman Cuchens – DEO Florida Growth Job Fund
- Councilwoman Cuchens – Triumph

Deletions: NONE

VIII. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the Agenda with specified Additions and Deletions as presented. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

IX. Staff Reports

A. City Clerk Matters

1. Councilmembers Attending FLC 2017 Annual Conference

Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to approve Council to attend the Florida League of Cities 2017 Annual Conference. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

B. Finance Officer

1. Set Tentative Millage Rate

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to set the tentative budget at the current millage rate of 4.7302 for the fiscal year of 2017 through 2018. Councilman McCormick seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

2. Set time & date for 1st Public Hearing Meeting

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to set the tentative Budget Hearing for September 14, 2016 at 5:05 pm. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

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3. Procurement of Sewer, Water, and Parks Dept. Trucks

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve four (4) Work Trucks from Triangle Chevrolet Buick which will include two (2) trucks for the Sewer Department, one (1) truck for the Water Department and one (1) truck for the Parks Department, for a total amount of \$102,744.92. Councilman McCormick seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

C. Planning & Zoning Dept.: None

D. Legal Matters

- City Attorney Clay Adkinson advised the Council that he will hold a Workshop regarding Sunshine Law for the newly elected Officials.

E. Parks Dept.

1. Parks & Recreation Update

- Clerk Podraza presented the update report for Parks Director Weiler in her absence.

F. Engineering

1. Freeport Highway 331 WM, Project No. 91493030

- Direct Purchase of Construction Materials from Data Flow Systems

*Council Action: Councilwoman Brannon made a motion to approve the **Direct Purchase of Construction Materials Purchase Order Request**, from Data Flow Systems (DFS), for the Freeport highway 331 Water Main Project, for a total pretax amount of \$33,305.00 and a tax savings of \$2,180.00. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.*

G. Water Dept.: None

H. Sewer Dept.

1. Approve Recommendation for Sewer Maintenance Worker

Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve hiring James Cooper as a Sewer Maintenance Worker Trainee at \$11.00 per hour pending his background check and drug screening. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris,

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Green, McCormick); motion carried.

X. Old Business: None

XI. New Business

A. Mayor Russ Barley

1. Mayor Barley advised the Council that he would like to appoint Councilman Eddie Farris as Council President for the next year.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to appoint Councilman Eddie Farris as the Council President. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve Councilman Farris to be added to the City Bank Accounts for signature authority for the City. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

B. Councilwoman Brannon: None

C. Councilwoman Cuchens

1. Councilwoman Cuchens – DEO Florida Growth Job Fund

- Councilwoman Cuchens advised Council that a DEO Florida Growth Job Fund, in the amount of 85 million dollars has been given to the Governor and will be made available for infrastructure, and work force training and development. The money is readily available now and applications are being submitted. Councilwoman Cuchens requested that Council hold a workshop to identify projects to give to the Engineers.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to hold a Workshop regarding DEO Florida Growth Job Funds on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

2. Councilwoman Cuchens – Triumph

- Councilwoman Cuchens advised the Council that she has an interest in working on a committee that may be formed by Opportunity Florida regarding the Triumph Application Process. This topic will be presented to Council again when further information becomes available.

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D. Councilman Farris: None

E. Councilwoman Green

1. Council Meeting Time Change

- Councilwoman Green requested that the Council consider a time change be made to the 4th Thursday meetings from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This change would take into consideration those residents who work out of town until 5:00 pm.
- City Attorney Clay Adkinson will provide a Resolution for the next Council Meeting.

Council Action: Councilwoman Green made a motion to change the Fourth Thursday, Regular Council Meetings from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon, Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

F. Councilman McCormick: None

G. Veterans Memorial Project Proposal

- Tim Ard approached the podium and requested approval for the following:

The local chapter of the Purple Heart Organization is out of Ft. Walton Beach and is named for a local County resident who was killed in Afghanistan. Mr. Ard requested approval for Mayor Barley to write a Proclamation that Freeport is a Purple Heart City.

Mr. Ard requested approval to move the POW and MIA flag and stone to the left side of Hero Walk and install a brick paved sidewalk for the stone to be embedded.

Request to add a Water Feature where the POW & MIA Flag were located.

Permission to unveil Veterans Memorial Purple Heart Stone and kick off a fund-raising drive at the Veterans Day Celebration to complete the last phase of the Veterans Memorial. Once this last phase is complete the memorial will be considered a War Memorial that will be marketed as a tourist attraction by the TDC and the local Chamber of Commerce.

Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the proposal made by The Town Planters as presented. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes, (Brannon,

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Cuchens, Farris, Green, McCormick); motion carried.

XII. Public Comment

Mr. Dan Glidewell, President of the Walton County Tax Payer's Association approached the podium. Mr. Glidewell introduced the following Board Members who will represent the City of Freeport and the County:

*Gary Adams
John Konopacki
Mike Crooke*

XIII. Adjournment

Mayor Barley adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Council President

ATTEST

City Clerk

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